

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-14 and 16-17 are now pending in the application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1, 2, 4-14 and 16-17 stand rejected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

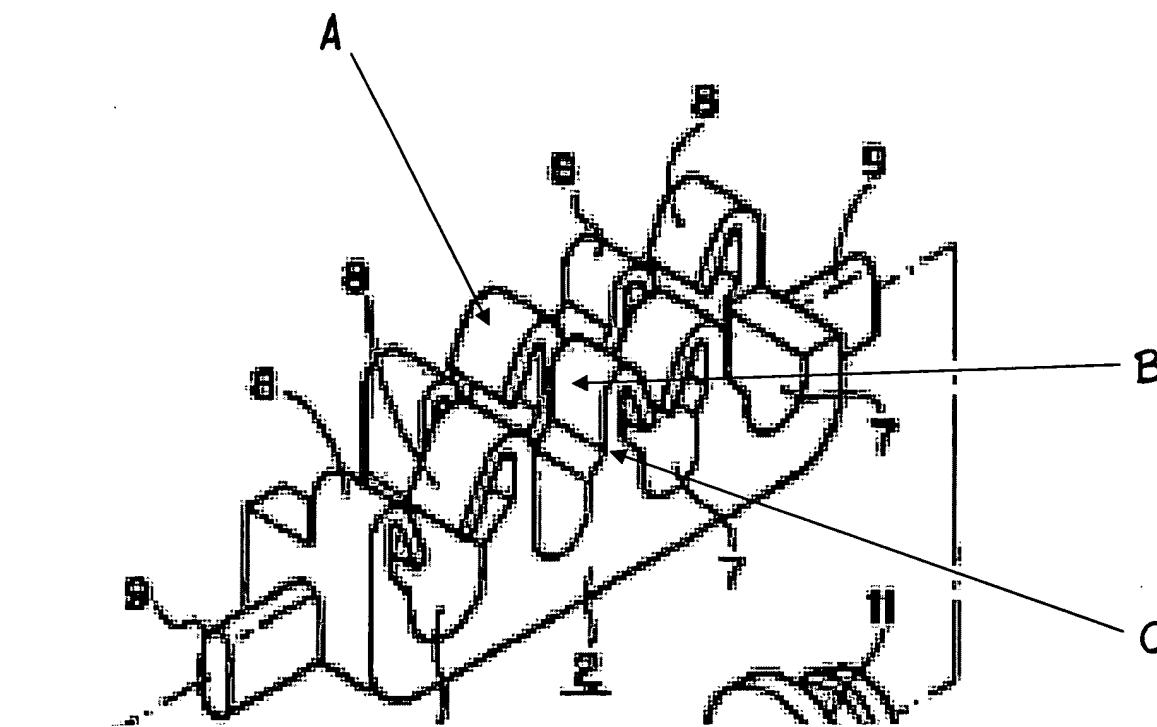
Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan Patent 317,946 to Tomoyoshi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,253,629 to Wilmes. Claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Wilmes and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,947,426 to Kraus. Claims 12, 14, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,954,300 to Sturies, et al. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomoyoshi in view of Sturies, et al. and in further view of Wilmes. In view of the comments and amendments herein, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

In characterizing the references, the Office Action states that the Tomoyoshi reference discloses that the retaining clip has a first latching finger offset to the second latching finger. Applicant respectfully traverses this characterization.

The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claims 1 and 12. Each of the independent claims contains the limitation that the partitions are displaced relative to each other. Figure 1 of the Tomoyoshi reference (see below) shows that the first and second partitions are not offset from each other (see A and B). In this regard, Applicant

asserts that the Tomoyoshi reference teaches parallel partitions as opposed to offset partitions.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the surface lines defining the surfaces on the partitions (see C). The aligned lines show that the partitions are aligned as opposed to offset. Further, Claims 1 and 13 contain the limitation that an elbow formed between the partitions so that the partitions are displaced relative to each other. Applicant respectfully asserts that none of the references cited teach these limitations. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that each of the claim limitations is not shown in the cited references. As such, rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is improper.




CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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